Permission for acquiring a full-fledged coal mine

*506. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has sought on behalf of the State Electricity Board, permission of Central Government for acquiring a full-fledged coal mine in any coal bearing State for running the Thermal Power Plants in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Ministry of Coal would expedite the matter since this arrangement is expected to bring down the production coast of Thermal power in the State considerably; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a coal mine in the State of Orissa was earmarked for transfer to Tamil Nadu but the same was handed over to N.T.P.C at the last moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is considering allocation of coal blocks in response to applications invited from State/Central PSUs under Government company dispensation route. The application of State electricity Board of Tamil Nadu is also being considered along with other applications.

(c) No, Sir.

Setting up of Internet Exchange at Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar

*507. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has submitted any project for setting up of Internet Exchange at Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) and